

CUBA

PERS: Smith, Earl F. T.
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Today's Editorial—

**Are Two Heads
Always Better
Than One?**

Time to time when a crisis arises in some point in the world we note our government sends a special representative to investigate and report.

This has always seemed a bit strange to us because there are Americans on the scene such as ambassadors and consular officers.

They should be more familiar with the picture rather than some political appointee suddenly thrust upon the scene from "back in the states."

The recent book, "The Fourth Floor," refers to a section of the State Department inhabited by middle echelon officials. It was written by former ambassador Earl F. T. Smith in Havana, Cuba.

In November, 1958, Smith flew to Washington from Havana and offered to wage \$100,000 he could prove that Fidel Castro was a communist.

This was long before the bewhiskered Cuban had confessed his love of Marxism.

According to a dispatch by the United Press International referring to the book, Batista still was president of Cuba.

Castro was leading a revolt and winning considerable sympathy from Americans who considered him a romantic Robin Hood trying to overthrow the bad, bad man out of office.

Smith wrote his book after he had left the

diplomatic service.

He apparently thinks the "middle echelon officials" mistakes aided and abetted Castro turning Cuba into a communist nation.

According to the story he offered to give the \$100,000 to any charity stipulated by the State Department if he was unable to convince a jury of Castro's Red purpose. He received no comment on his offer.

Smith comments "this knowledge was not made available to the American people. I am now convinced that neither President Eisenhower or Secretary of State John Foster Dulles were provided with information available to officials in the State Department and the CIA."

Often ambassadors are political appointees rather than career men.

Perhaps that is the reason that Washington sends out an emissary to "case the joint" instead of taking the ambassador's word for the facts of life as they apply in his immediate realm.

The professional diplomats of such nations as France and Great Britain are often bewildered by this situation. As a matter of fact, nearly everybody else is too.

LMW